



WELCOME TO

MODELING IN THE COMPUTER AGE

By Duane Richardson, MMR

<http://www.purgatoryanddevilriver.com>



MODELING IN THE COMPUTER AGE

There are many tools available to today's modeler that were not available in years past. Early modelers would have loved to have had a Dremel Tool but it is common place now. As any of you who know me know that I'm a fan of the old school. I love to scratchbuild and I like to read the old modeling magazines looking for tips. With all that being said there are a lot of advantages to marrying the old with the new.

I like to take a pile of wood and an Exacto to build a model. I also have no problem spending some time designing parts on the computer and running the file over to my laser to cut out the parts. Even before that there is the research of a project. You will find an amazing wealth of knowledge at your fingertips thanks to the internet. You can also use the internet to chat and/or talk with modelers around the globe that share your same interests.

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There are chat lists like Yahoo Groups and stand alone Discussion Forums for all like minded modelers to use to talk or trade tips and techniques. You can also use programs like Skype to combine your computer and it's video camera to talk face to face over the internet.

For today's clinic we'll touch on several of these features and talk about some software that can aid you in building your models and your layout.

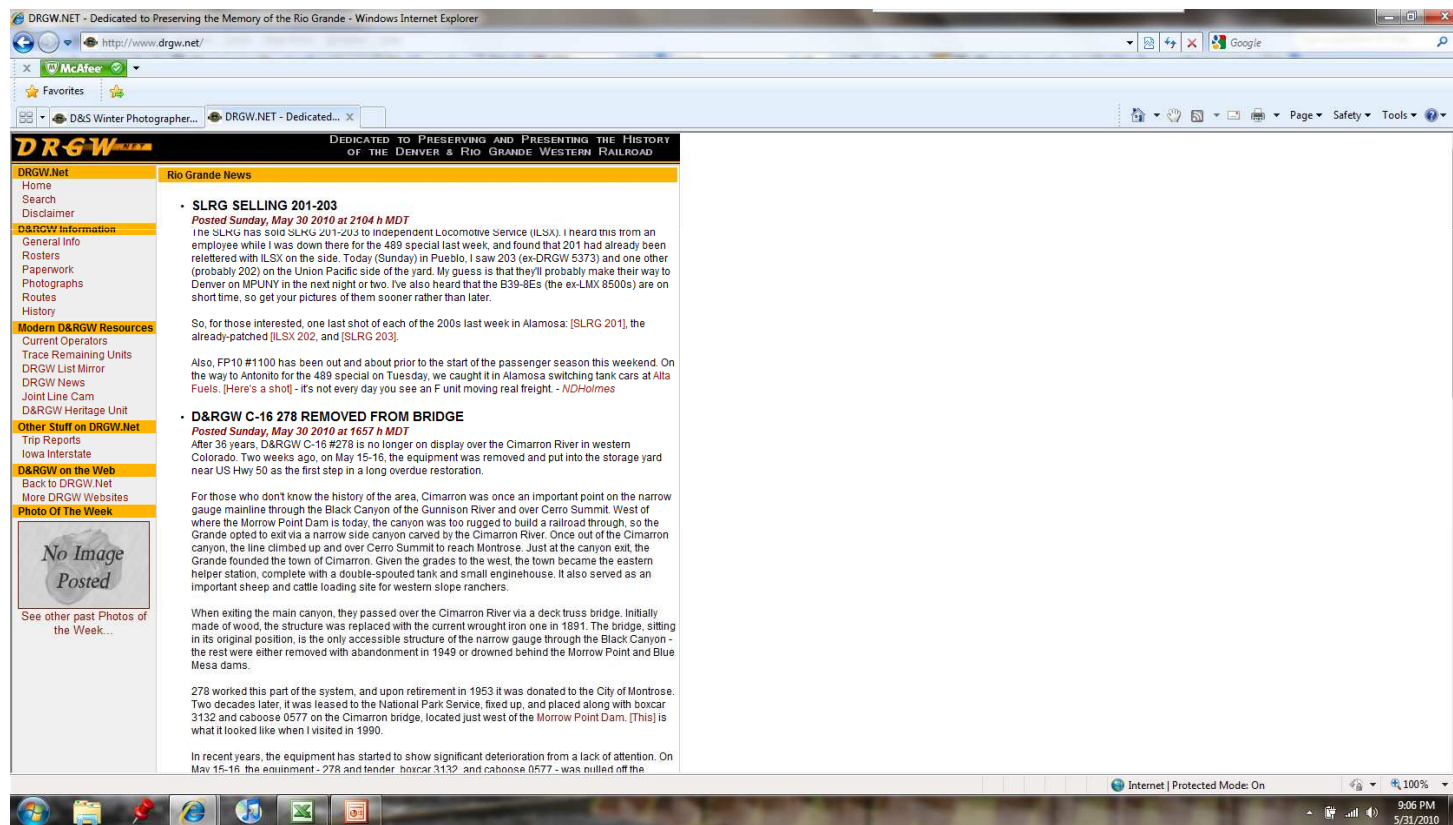
First...lets talk about researching a project. I model the Narrow Gauges of Colorado so most of what I'll show you is flavored that way but the principles are the same for any railroad. Almost any railroad will have Historical Societies and fan websites that you can use to find just about everything you need.

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Here is an example of things that can be found on a fan site. This site belongs to Nathan Holmes and is dedicated to the D&RGW. On the left you will see various areas where he has placed information.

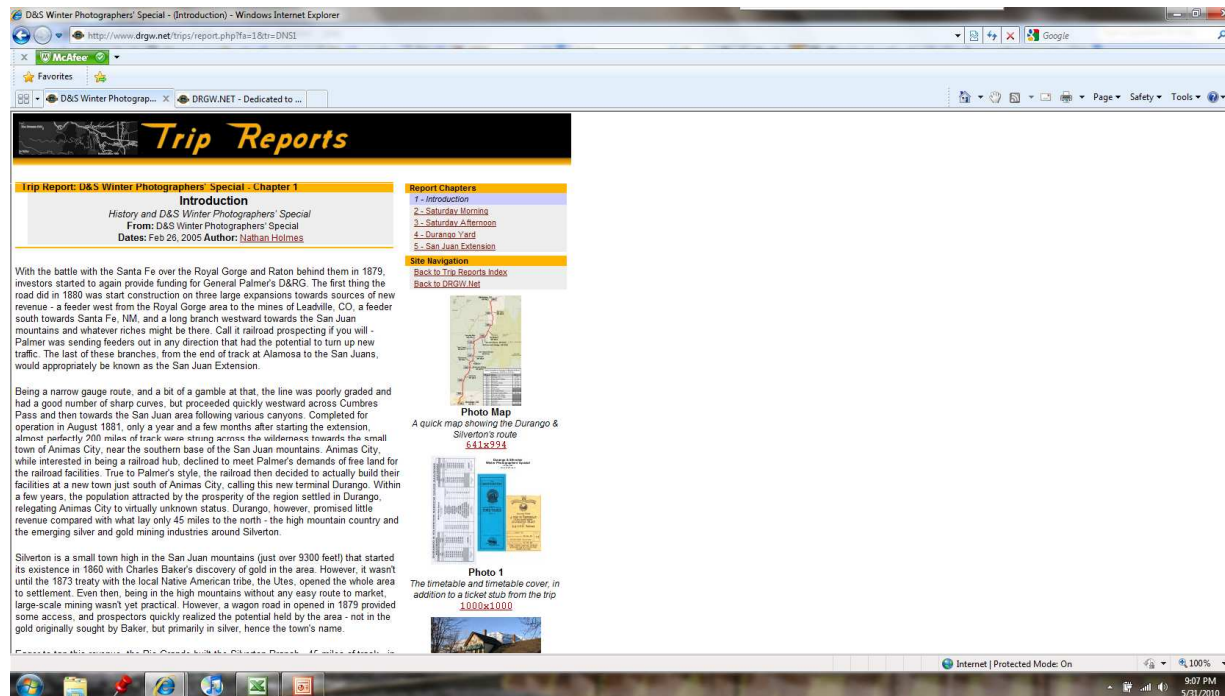


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Drilling down into the site we can go to the Trip Reports area. From there we have many options to pick from. Let's go see if we can find any images of the Durango Roundhouse.

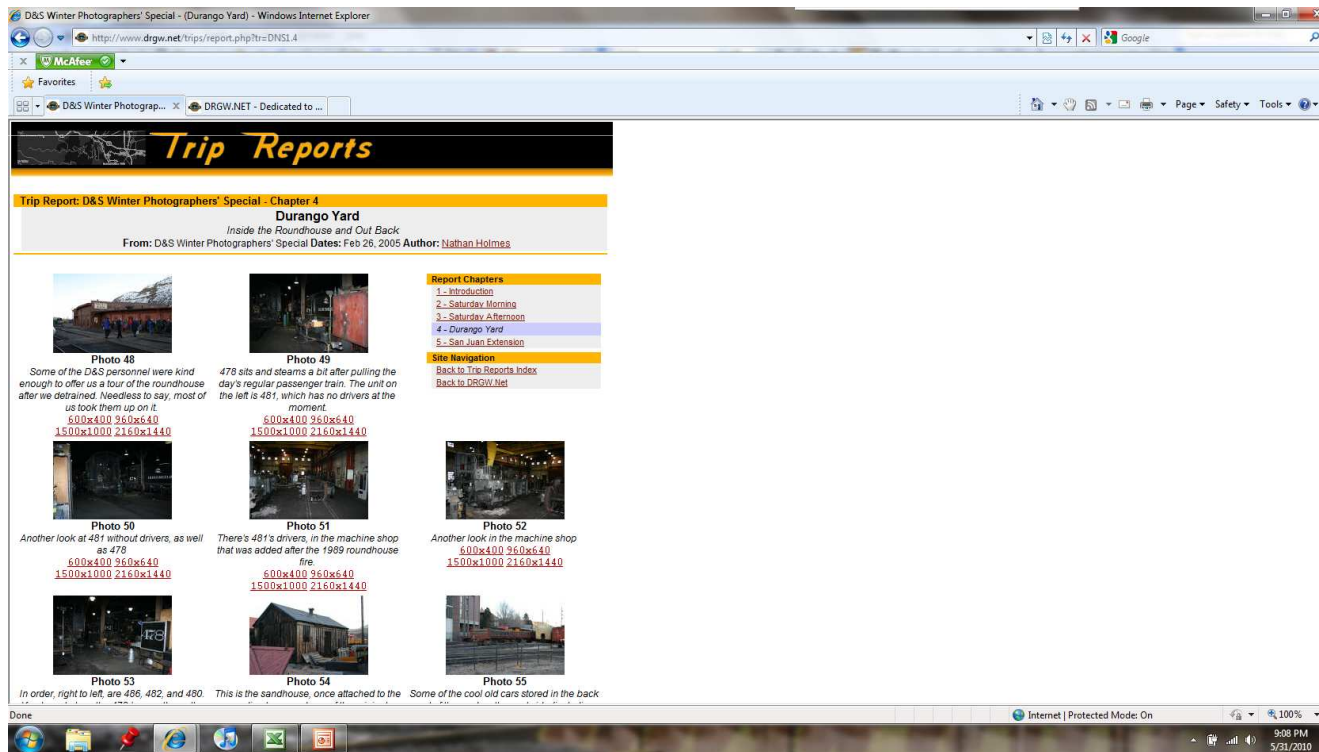


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By clicking on the link for Durango we find many pictures posted. Nathan's site does something that few do in that he offers the pictures in several different sizes. This allows for people on slow internet speeds to download smaller files. Looks like the roundhouse is there in the first picture. Clicking on one of the options will open the larger image.



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Here is the result. We get a nice image of the north end of the roundhouse. You will note that when it was rebuilt after the fire they have created the D&SNG Museum in the south end.

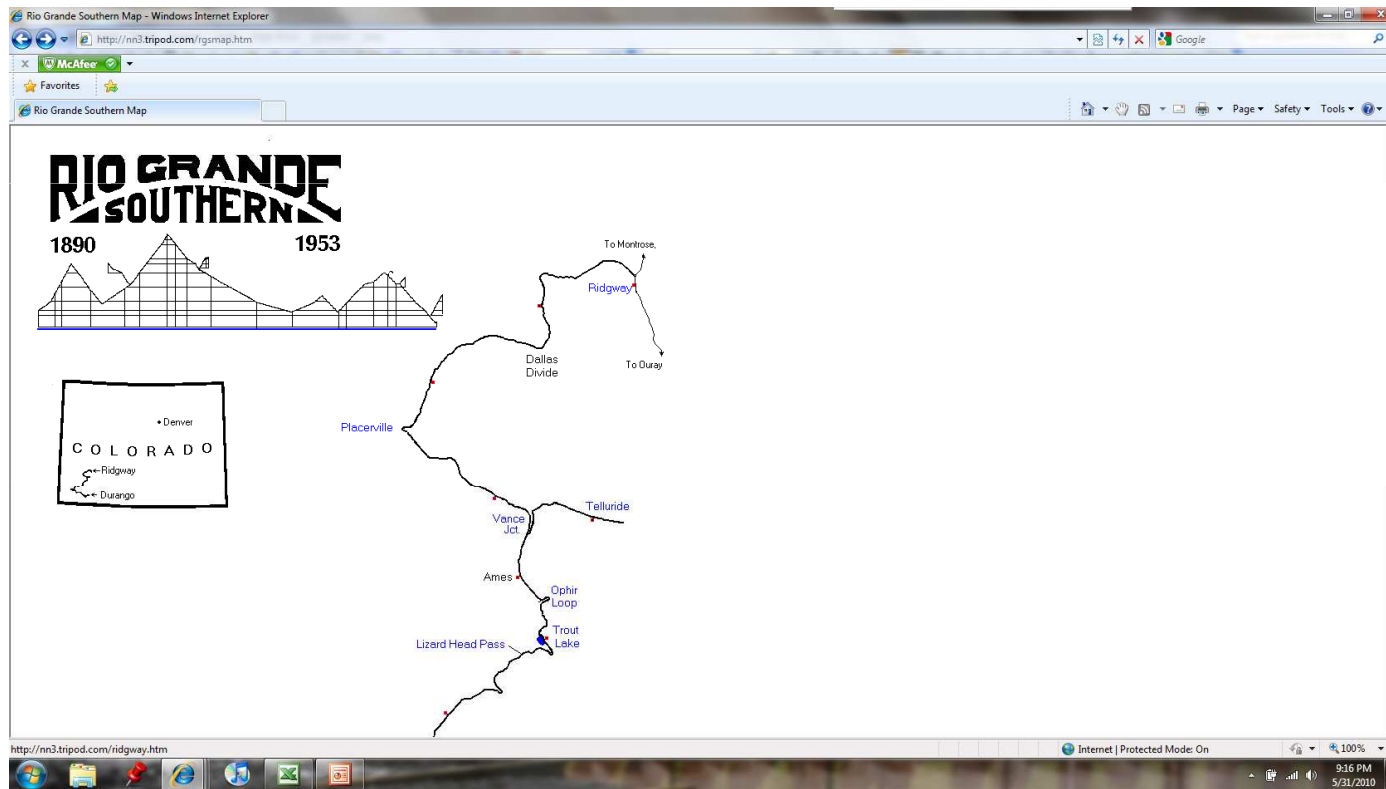


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Here is another site for the fans of the Rio Grande Southern. This site offers a map of the railroad where each town is a link to more detail. Clicking on Ridgway will take us to a more detailed image of the town.

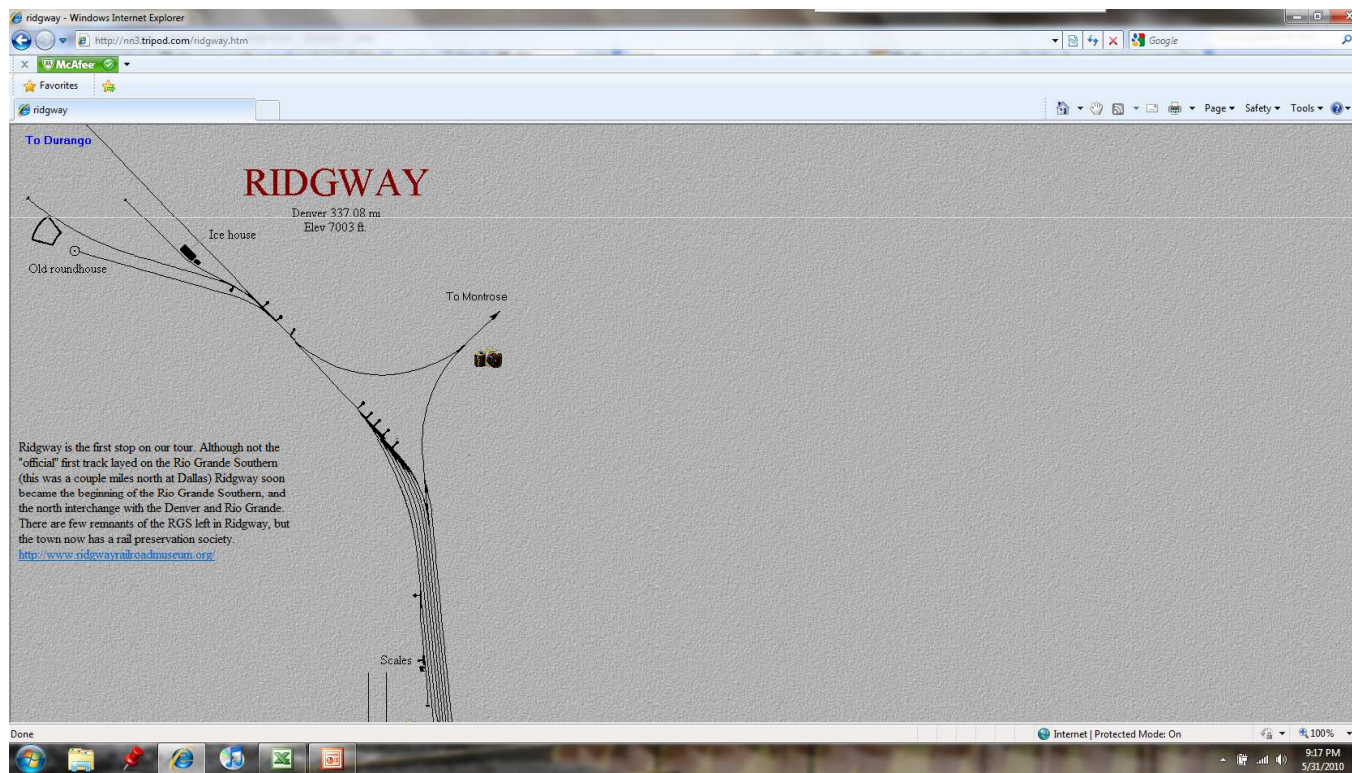


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Here we see the track layout of the town. By scrolling down on the page there are many other options available such as links to images of the area.

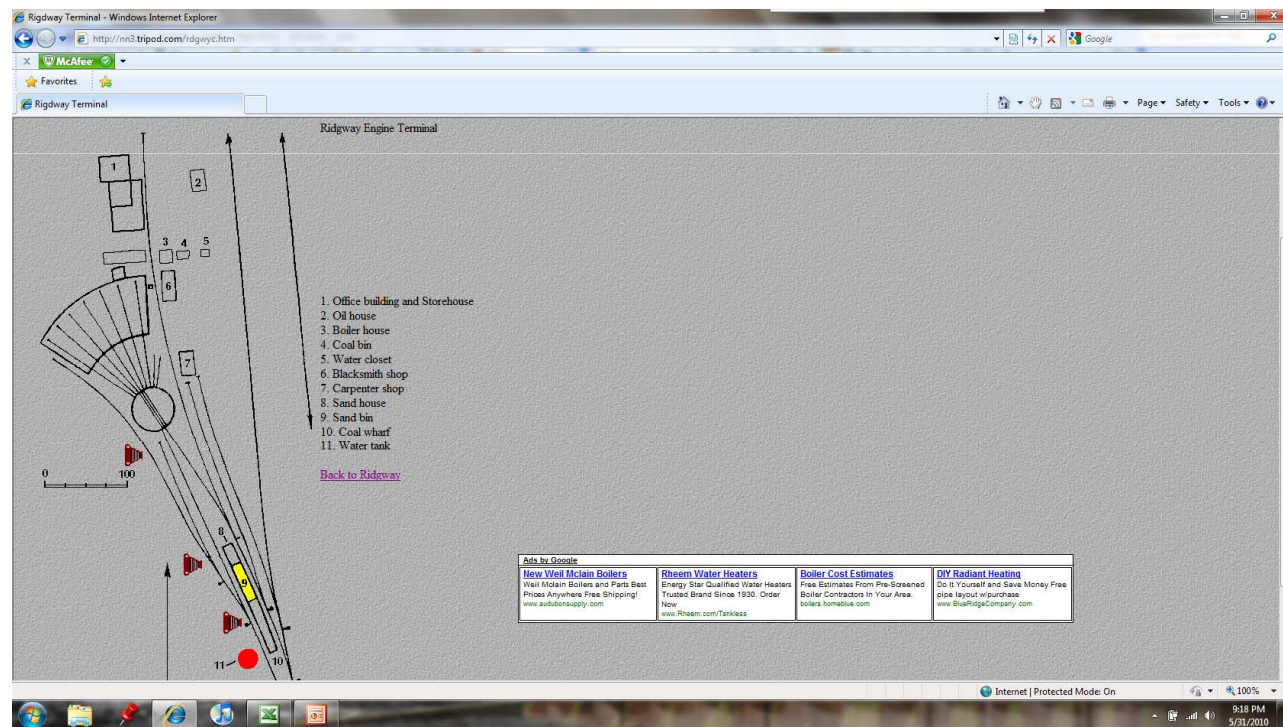


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Here we see even more detail of the yard area that is available via one of the links on the previous page. This can provide the modeler with track layout, what buildings were where and some even offer a scale to show how much real estate this area took up.

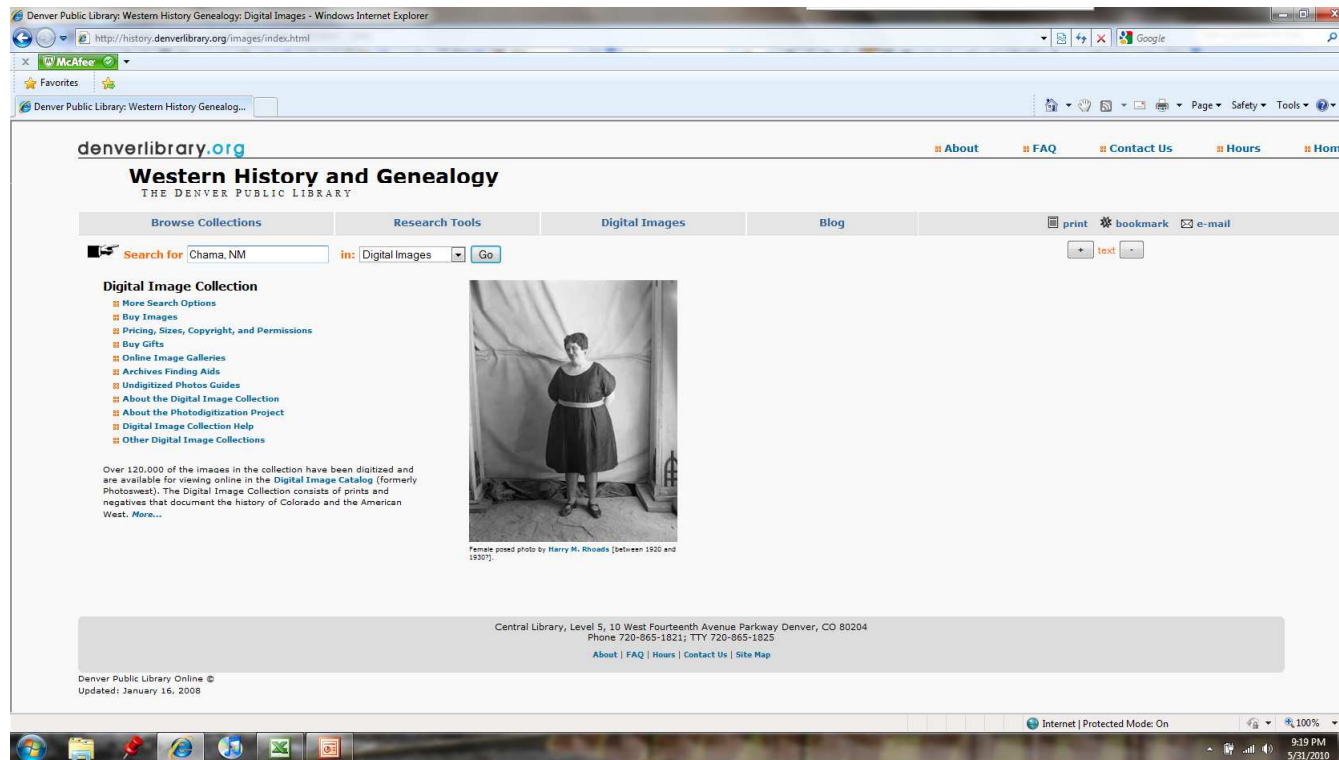


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Another good source for information can be libraries and colleges. For the fans of the Colorado Narrow Gauge the Ft. Lewis College in Durango has some great online information. One of the best sources for images from the day is the Denver Public Libraries Western History Collection.



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If we type CHAMA into the search box we get the following results. Each image is a thumbnail version of a slightly bigger picture. Click on the photo to see it larger or you can click on the blue link for the photographers notes on the photo and order information (the library will sell you prints).

Search Results - Windows Internet Explorer

http://photoswest.org/8080/cgi-bin/cw.cgi?resultsScreen=31721+1+10+0

denverlibrary.org
Western History and Genealogy
THE DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Help New Search Exit

Sort Results by:
Creator
Title
Date
Call Number

Search History

Records 1 - 10 of 155 in [DPL Western History Photos](#)
Search type: Keyword
Search was: Chama

Next

1		Perry, Otto, 1894-19 D&RGW train (Narrow Gauge), engine number 493_e	OP-8903 1967
2		Perry, Otto, 1894-19 D&RGW train (Narrow Gauge), engine number 493_e	OP-8904 1967
3		Perry, Otto, 1894-19 D&RGW train (Narrow Gauge), engine number 497_e	OP-9010 1967
4		Perry, Otto, 1894-19 D&RGW train (Narrow Gauge), engine number 493_e	OP-8902 1967

Internet | Protected Mode: On

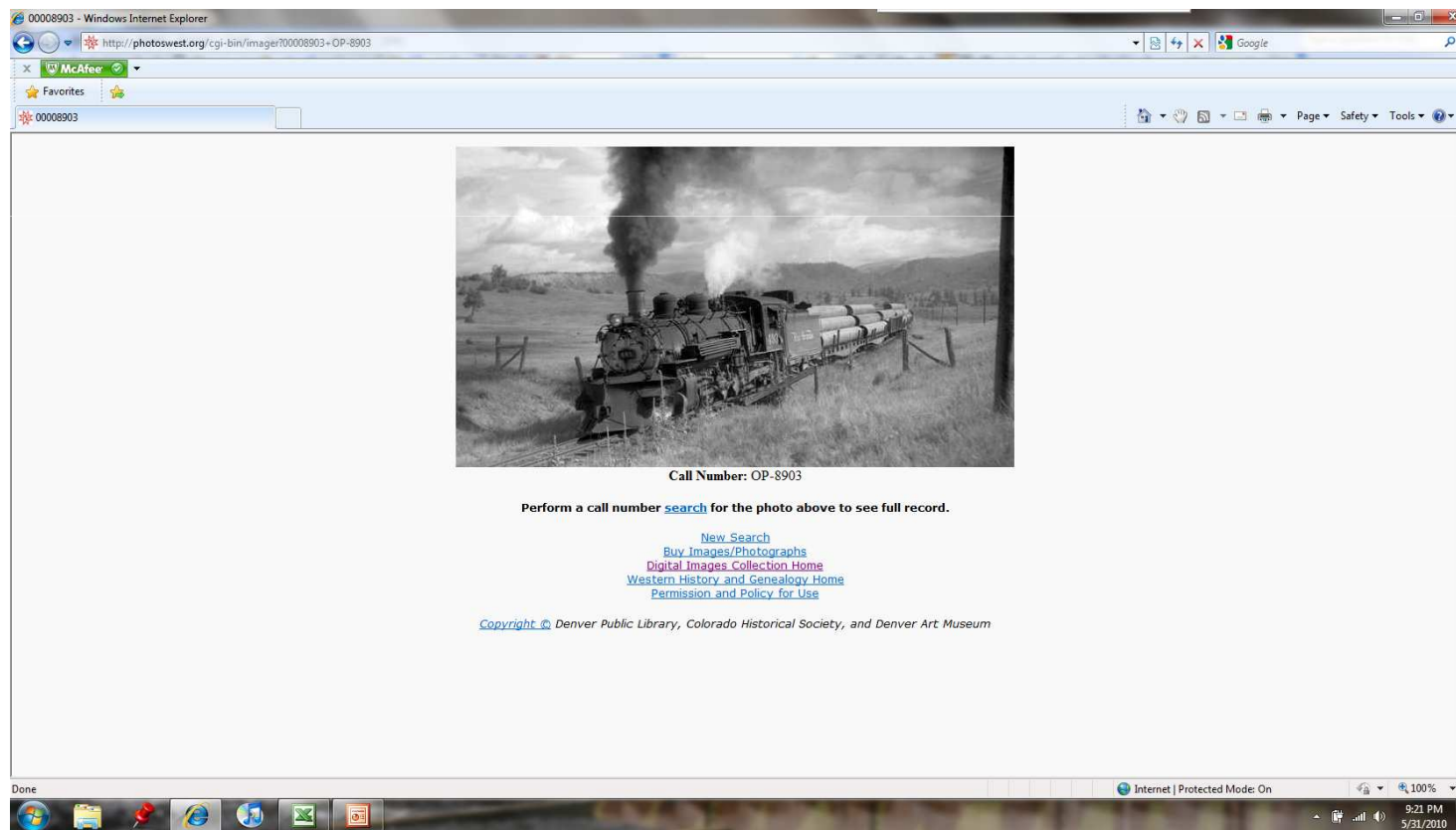
9:20 PM
5/31/2010

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Here is the larger image. Pictures like this are very helpful in detailing and weathering your models.

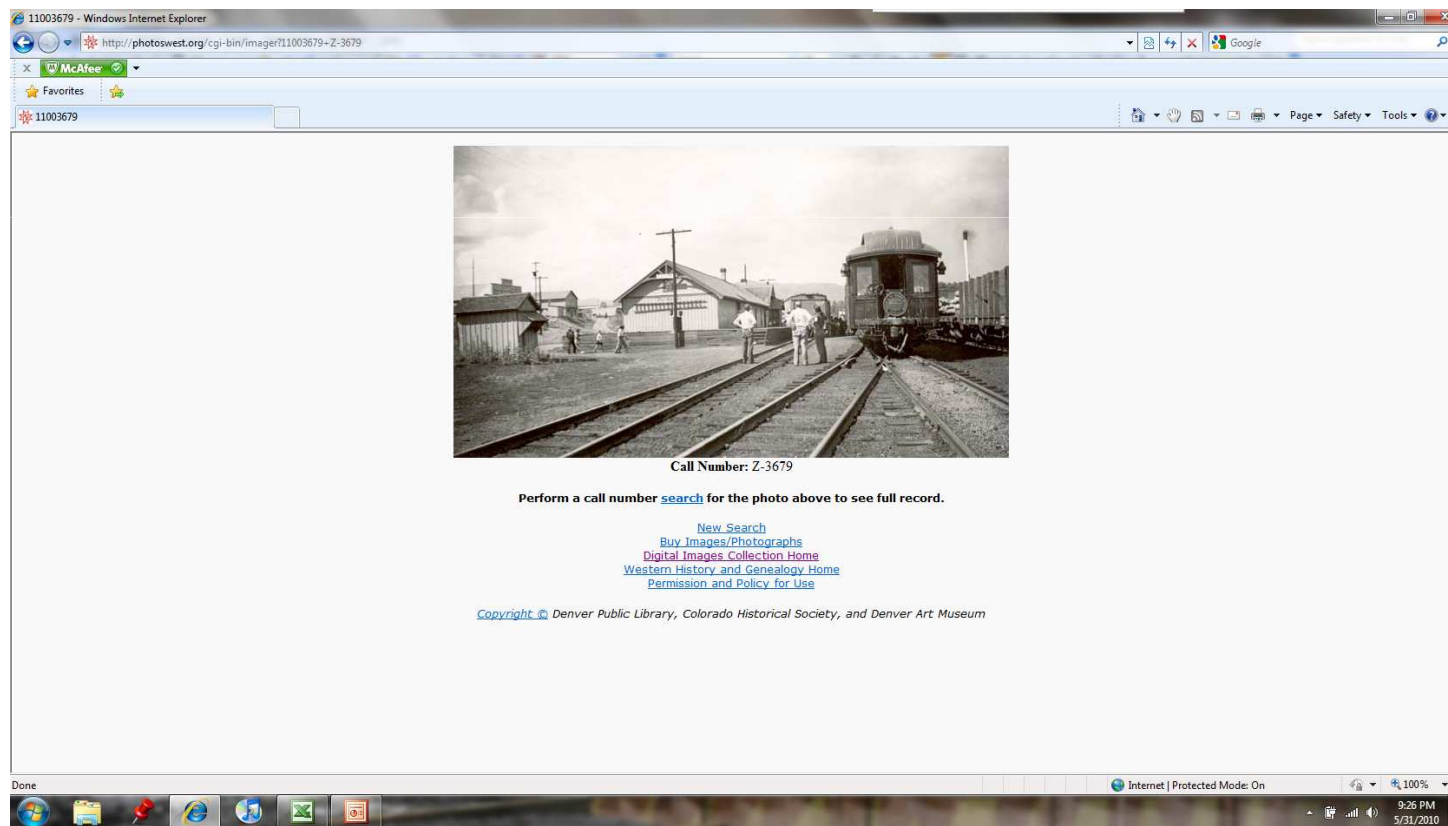


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Here is another picture from Chama, NM. Here we see the San Juan as it has come into town from Durango and is about to head up the hill to Cumbres. A nice little detail to note in this photo is the ladder hanging on the side of the depot.



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Message boards can be another great source of information. Here, on the Narrow Gauge Discussion Forum you can chat with modelers, D&S and C&TS railroaders and even some of the old heads from D&RGW.

Narrow Gauge Railroad Discussion Forum :: Narrow Gauge Discussion - Windows Internet Explorer

http://ngdiscussion.net/forums/list.php?1

McAfee

Narrow Gauge Railroad Discussion Forum :: Narr...

NGDiscussion

Narrow Gauge Discussion : Narrow Gauge Railroad Discussion Forum

Narrow Gauge Railroad Discussion Forum

This is a forum for the discussion of narrow gauge and steam railroading with a primary emphasis on railroads operating in the US. While discussions of modeling are welcome, please try to limit such discussions to issues relating to the prototype. This forum is not associated with any organization or group, and the authors of each post are solely responsible for the content of their post.

The forum is open to anyone to read, however if you wish to participate, you will have to register, and to provide a valid e-mail address. When you do so, you will be sent a confirmation e-mail with a link which you can use to activate your account. You are free to use a handle as your screen name should you wish to do so, however we do ask that you provide a real name in the profile associated with your handle. Beyond that all we ask is that you accord yourself as if you were visiting a friend's house, or roundhouse. Remember, you are responsible for anything you say.

Rights to all posts are owned by their respective authors. All other content copyright 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 NGDF, all rights reserved.

This board is owned and operated by Don Richter. Others who have contributed to the upkeep of this board are (in no particular order): Herb Kelsey, Everett Lueck, Bill Ramaley, Rod Jensen, Russ Sperry (El Russo Loco), Josh McNeal, John West, Jim Armstrong, Bob Bergstrom, Greg Scholl, Blake Forbes, and Doug van Veelen.

Goto: Forum List • New Topic • Search • Log In

Current Page: 1 of 594

Subject	Posts	Started By	Last Post
Announcement: About the NGDF	1	Don Richter	09/05/2008 01:55PM Last Post by Don Richter
Sticky: Image upload - howto	27	Don Richter	12/11/2008 11:56PM Last Post by Featus
Sticky: FEATURE LIST	5	John Craft	07/07/2007 04:28PM Last Post by Don Richter
Group Of Greenies	18	Roger Hogan	05/31/2010 08:24PM Last Post by Roger Hogan
Chama then and now	17	John West	05/31/2010 08:23PM Last Post by Chris Webster
Cindy & 489 ?	9	Skip	05/31/2010 08:16PM Last Post by Uraas von Meyenburg
NNG? - early, major railroad abandonments?	9	Brian Norden	05/31/2010 08:09PM Last Post by Eugene Blabey
(NNG) - On the Road Again ... Part 1	6	Russo Loco	05/31/2010 08:05PM Last Post by FordCV71
1968 Project Update	8	Greg Scholl	05/31/2010 08:01PM

Done

Internet | Protected Mode: On

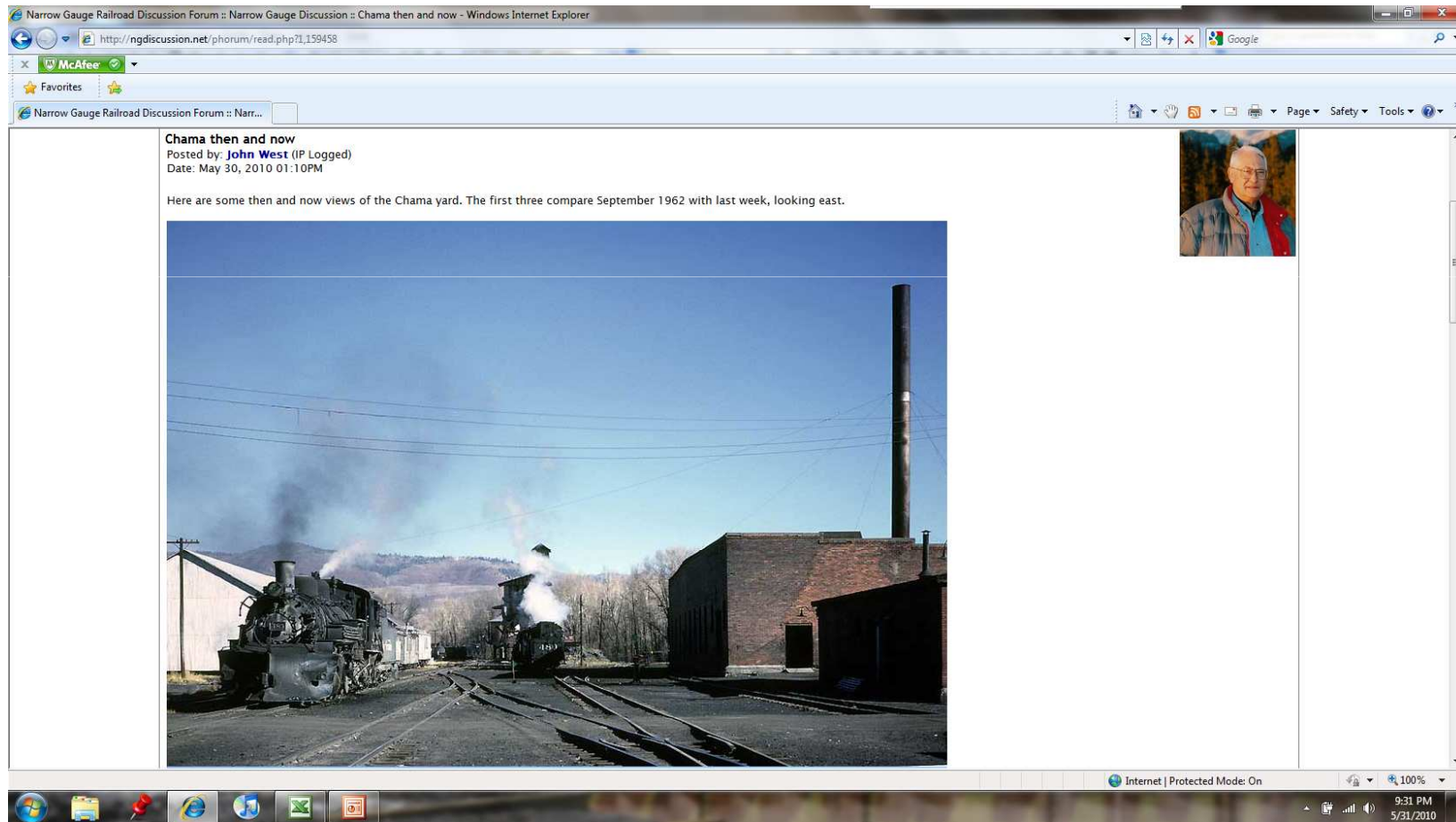
9:30 PM
5/31/2010

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By clicking on one of the topic links I found some 'Then and Now' photos posted by John West.



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So you can't say it was all Narrow Gauge...Here is a board for the Frisco Historical group.

Frisko Railroad Library Frisko Library - Powered by vBulletin - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.frisco.org/vb/index.php

McAfee

Frisko Railroad Library Frisko Library - Powered by vBulletin

FRISCO All Aboard FRISCO

Frisko Railroad Library Frisko Library

Register Top Posters All Albums FAQ Calendar

User Name User Name Password Password Remember Me? Log in

Latest 8 --> Random Attachments

Filename: DSC_0023.JPG	Filename: img1480.jpg	Filename: Hume, Mo 1916 b.jpg	Filename: 100_0045_reduced.jpg
Filename: Frisco Wreck Servery, Ks.jpg	Filename: 1085.jpg	Filename: Frisco (BNSF) Yard Springfield Mo No.1.jpg	Filename: KY TOWER 440 feet annotated.jpg

Welcome to the Frisko Railroad Library Frisko Library.

If this is your first visit, be sure to check out the [FAQ](#) by clicking the link above. You may have to [register](#) before you can post: click the register link above to proceed. To start viewing messages, select the forum that you want to visit from the selection below.

Forum	Last Post	Threads	Posts
Welcome to the Frisko Library This forum is for information about the Frisko Library including rules, how to get around, how to customize the colors and styles of the library.			
Announcements What's new at the library	2010 Frisco Meet - KC by Rick McClellan 2 Hours Ago	79	594
New Member Introductions New members take a few minutes to tell the FRISCO.org crew a little about yourself.	Good Evening - I am a Newbie... by FriscoGeorge 11 Hours Ago	142	594
The Real Frisco Operations, Divisions, Depots, Maintenance, Equipment, Locomotives, Freight, Caboose			

Internet | Protected Mode: On 9:28 PM 5/31/2010

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As you see there are many different areas where you can research the railroad. I found many useful things on this site. I found that the caboose my grandfather worked out of for most of his career is still around in Rogers, AR. I also found a picture of a locomotive my Dad was working on when they had a head on collision at Olden, MO. I have bought him a model of that locomotive and a set of decals...and then sent him a link from this site.

The screenshot shows the Frisco Railroad Library website. The browser window title is "Frisco Railroad Library Frisco Library - Powered by vBulletin - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://www.frisco.org/vb/index.php". The page content is organized into sections. On the left, there is a navigation menu with the following items:

- The Real Frisco**
 - Operations, Divisions, Depots, Maintenance, Equipment, Locomotives, Freight, Caboose
 - General**: The purpose of this conference is to share general Frisco related information.
 - Divisions**: Photographs and information about the Frisco Divisions and Subdivisions.
 - Operations**: Frisco Operations in all the divisions hosted by Chris Abernathy. Welcome to the Frisco Operations Section! Ship IT on the Frisco!
 - Motive Power**: Photographs, discussions, and text about diesel and steam locomotives. Also locations of surviving equipment.
 - Caboosees**: Caboosees of all kinds, wooden, steel, transfer, etc.
 - Rolling Stock**: Frisco prototype equipment information.
 - Depots & Stations**: Photographs, discussion, and text about depots and stations. Alphabetically sorted into three groups: A-F, G-P, and Q-Z.
 - Buildings and Structures**: This section is for structures, depots, bridges, water towers, coaling stations, etc.
 - Action Photos**: Photographs of equipment in operation
- Modeling of the Frisco**
 - This section is for discussion and photos of less than 1:1 scale models of the FRISCO
 - General**: Discussion about modeling the Frisco, in general
 - O Gauge and O Scale**: Photographs and discussions about O scale and gauge modeling
 - S Scale**: Photographs and discussions about S scale modeling
 - HO Scale**: Photographs and discussions about HO scale modeling
 - N Scale**: Photographs and discussions about N scale modeling
 - Z Scale**: Photographs and discussions about Z scale modeling

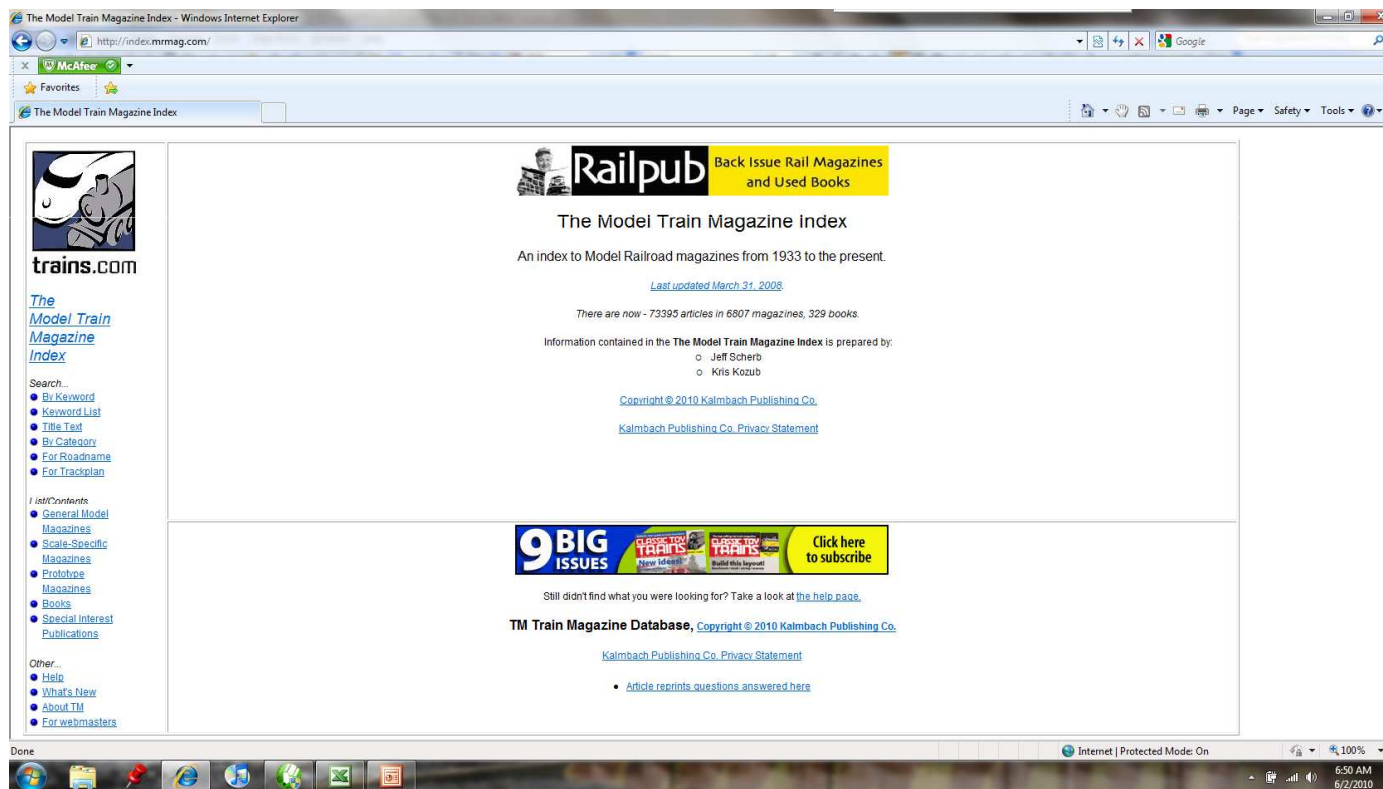
The main content area displays a list of forum posts. Each post includes a title, author, date, and view/post counts. Some posts are highlighted with a blue background. The bottom of the page shows the Windows taskbar with various icons and the system clock.

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Yet another good source of information is your old model railroad magazines. With the search engine located here you can search their database and it will tell you what issues of which magazines have articles about your topic.



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You can also find software and user forums for track planning and design. Here is the main page for 3-D Plan-It. This software is a CAD program and you can design everything from the benchwork up. It also allows you to build and run a train around your virtual layout.

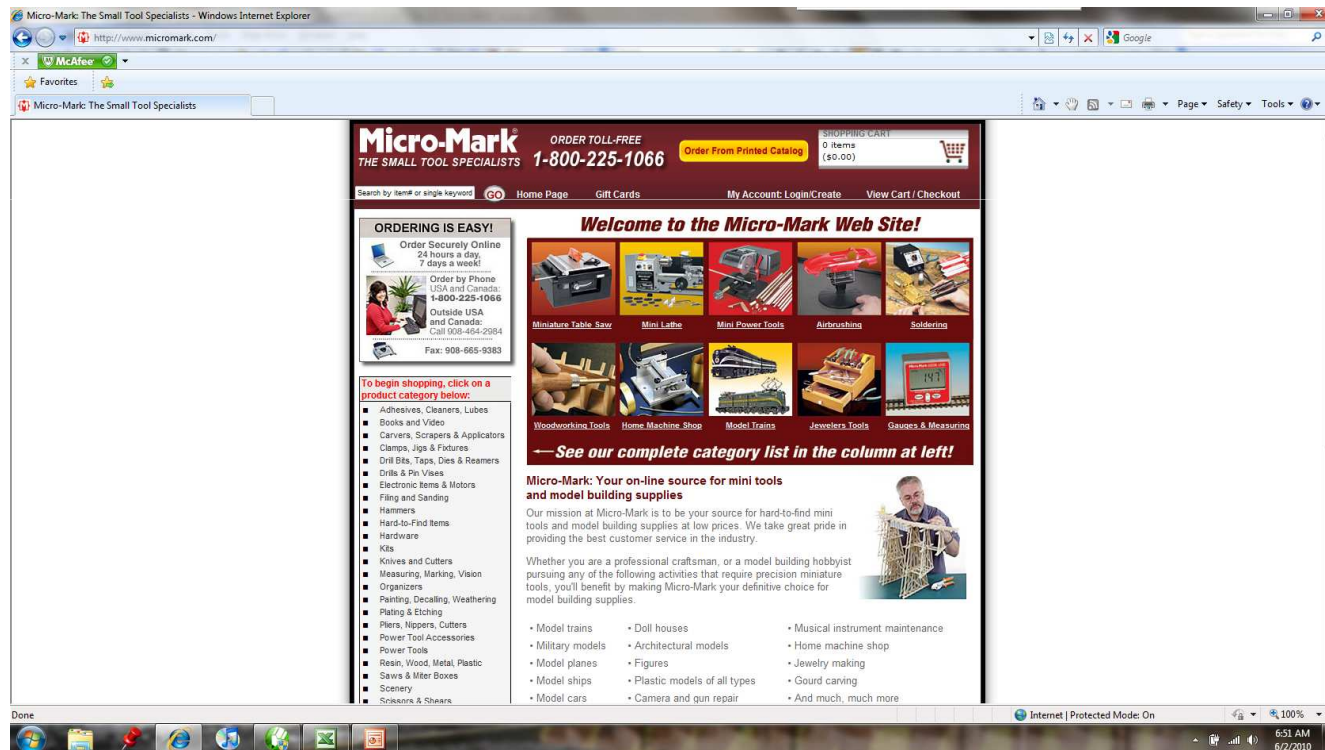


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Micro-Mark is more than just the catalog you get in the mail every couple of months. You can find them online as well.

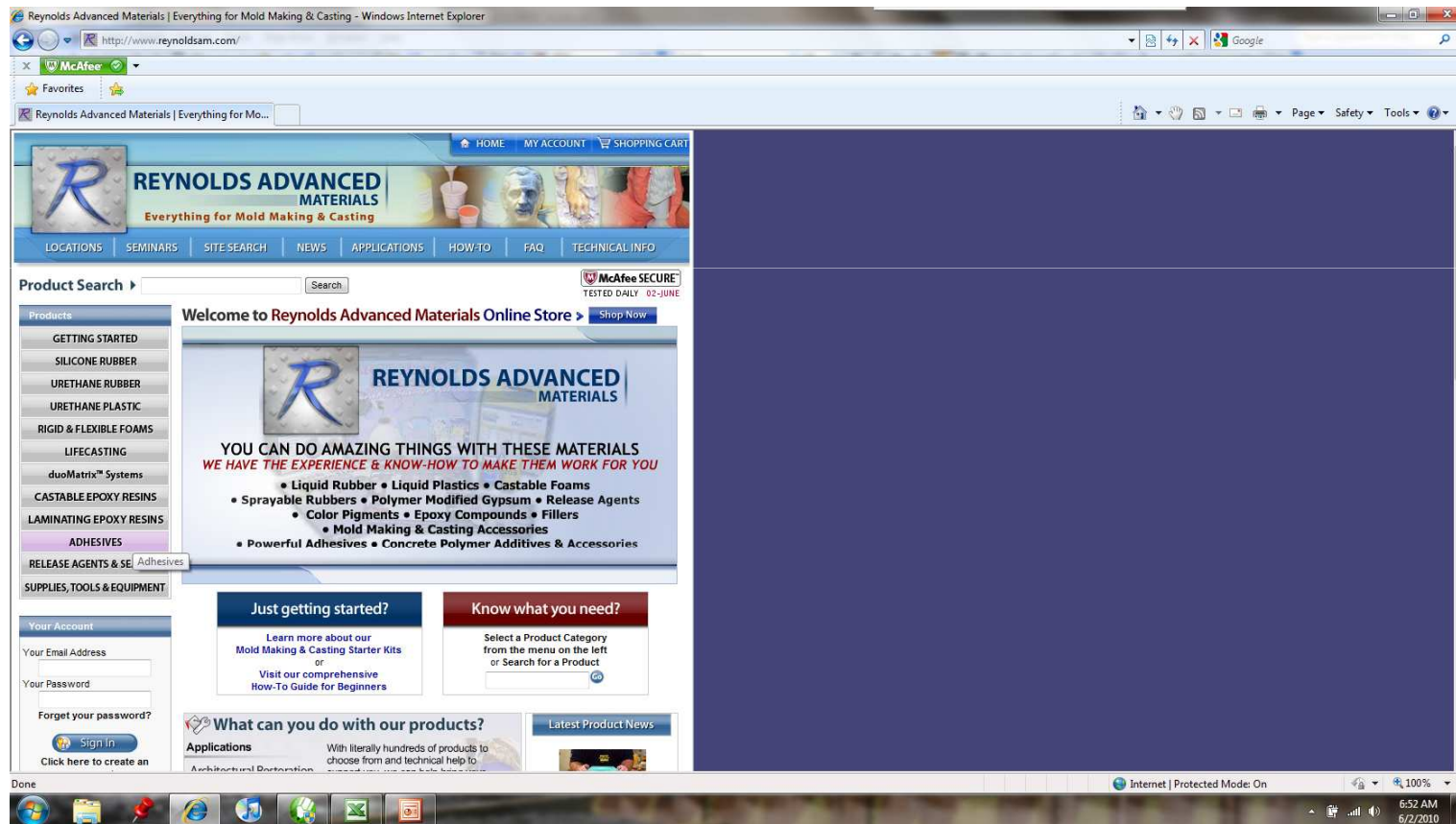


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If you like to cast with RTV molds and casting resins this is another good site to look over.

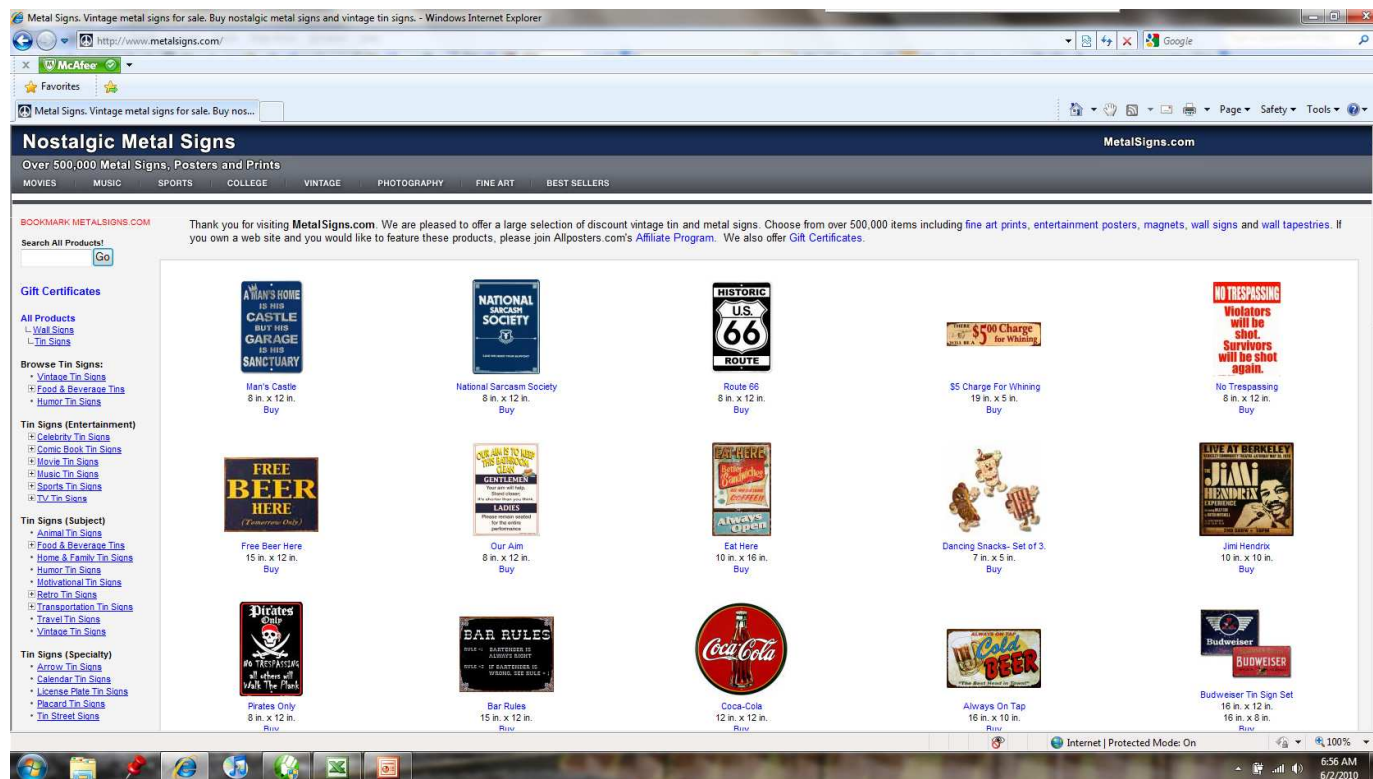


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Searches online for antique or Vintage Metal signs can turn up hundreds of sample signs that can be easily printed off for your models. As with most images online the resolution isn't the best but the work pretty good in HO.

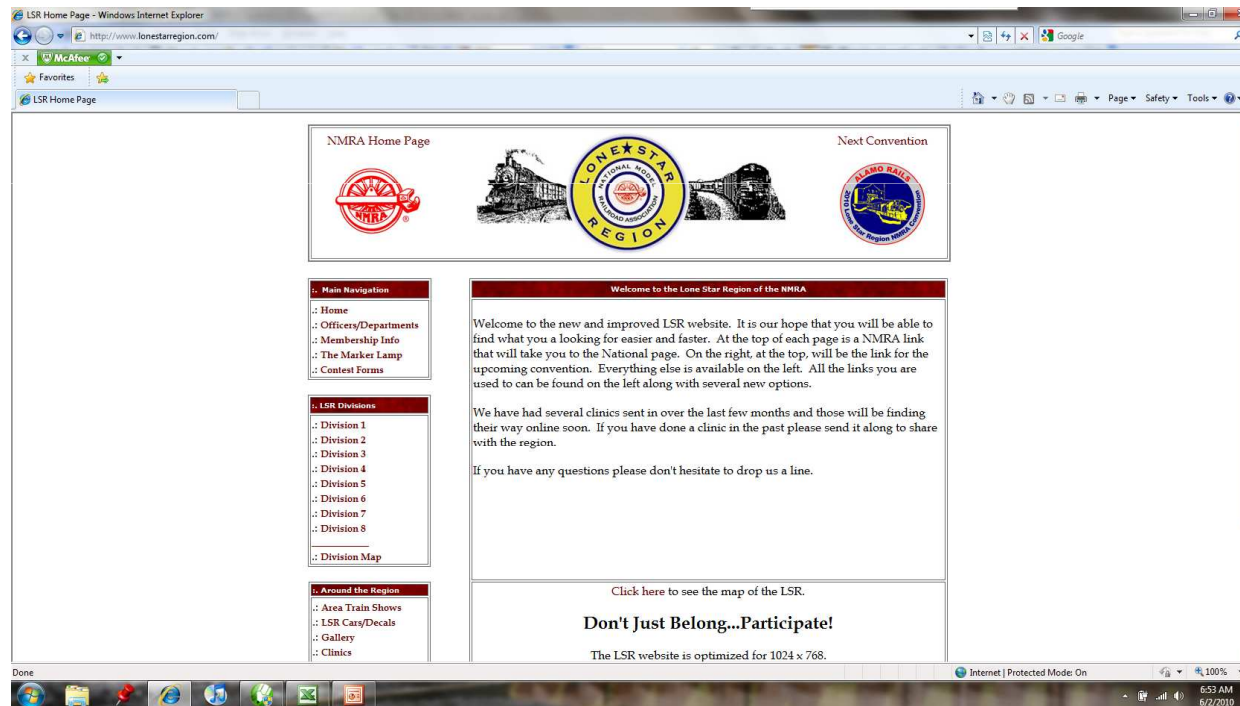


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Yet another good source for information is the LSR's own website. <http://www.lonestarregion.com>

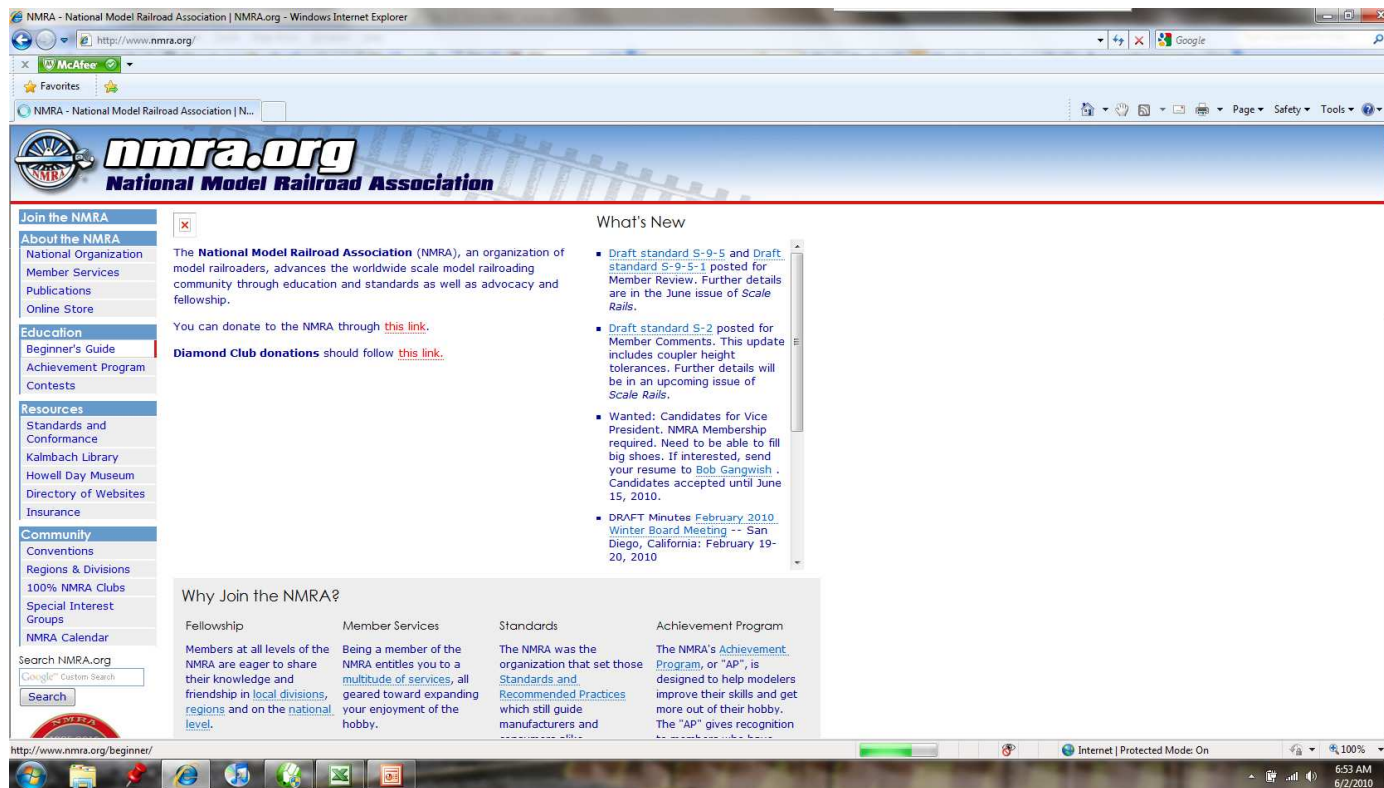


<http://www.purgatoryanddevilriver.com>



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The NMRA's site at <http://www.nmra.org>. Please note the ORG. Dot com will take you to some National Maritime something or other.

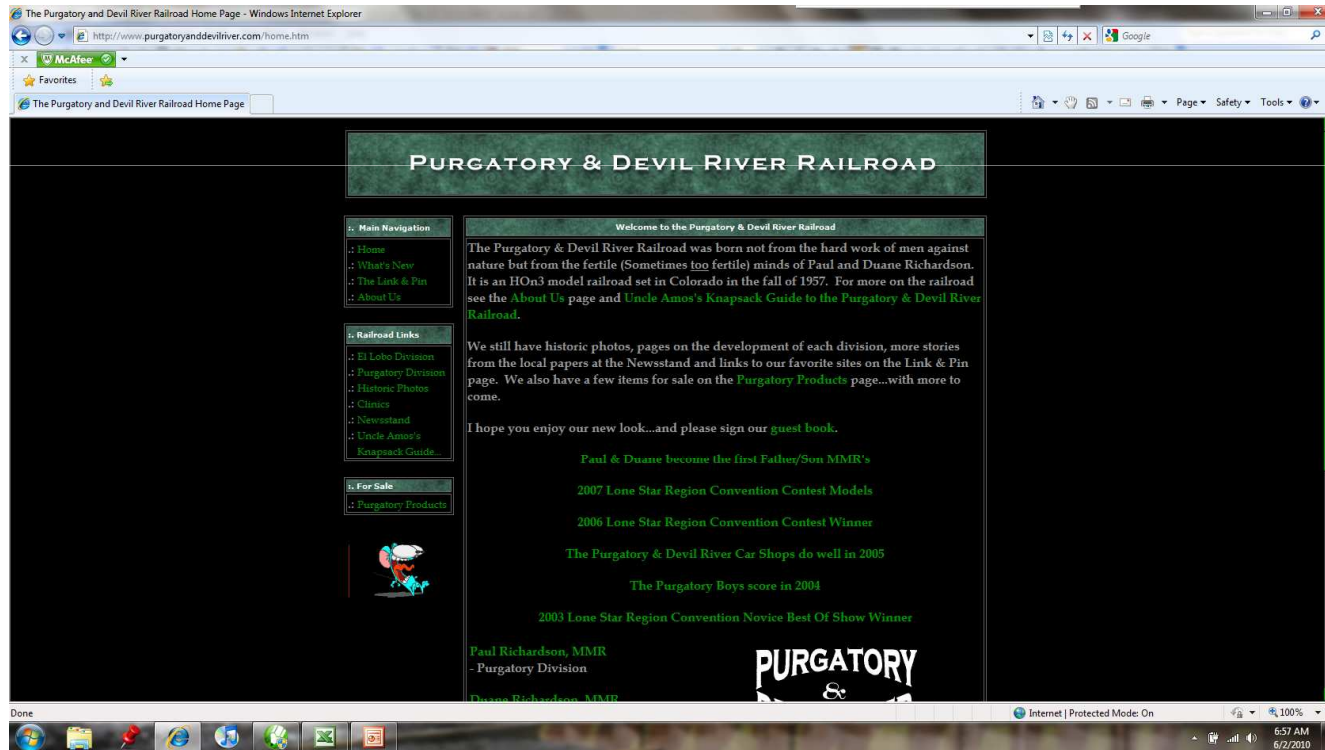


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Then...when you are REALLY desperate for information and have looked everywhere else you can think of you might try this site. Dad and I have had our site on the web for almost 10 years now. We both have clinic sections where we have posted many of our clinic hand outs and notes.



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Any questions so far???

How about a live demo of some software you can use to build models for you layout?

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